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# BIBLE INSIGHT

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

Volume 8, Issue: August 2005

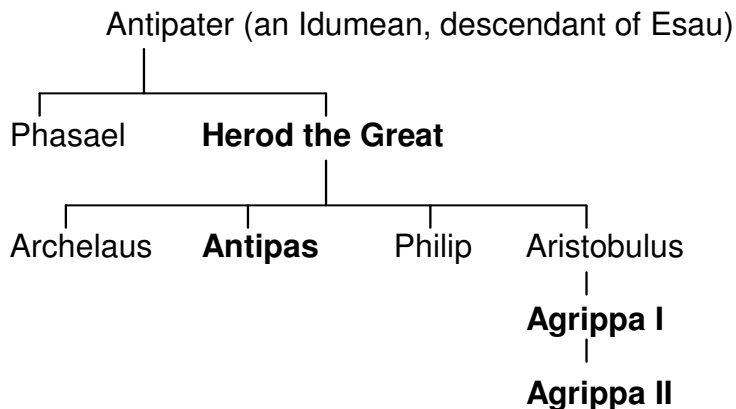
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## Who Were The Herods?

by Carey Dillinger

The Herods were a line of kings set up to rule Judea and Palestine by Rome from 40 BC until around 100 AD. As concerns our study of the New Testament we are interested in four particular Herods: Herod the Great, Herod Antipas, Herod Agrippa I and Herod Agrippa II.

### A Condensed Family Tree



**Herod the Great** (ruled from 37-3 BC) – obtained and retained his throne by crimes of blood, even murdering one of his ten wives and two of his sons. He was cruel, cunning and cold-blooded. Though young when taking the throne he was admired by Romans for his handling of the rebel Ezekias in 47 BC and building the Roman port at Caesarea and the temple to Augustus at Samaria. Even though he was despised by the Jews for his Edomite heritage, he conciliated them by building the great temple at Jerusalem. He brought more Jews under his wing by forming the pro-Herod political party, the Herodians. (Read: Mk. 3:6; 12:13; and Mt. 22:16.) He was the Herod on the throne at the birth of Jesus and it was he

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## Welcome Visitors!

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

**1 Timothy 1:5 says: “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”**

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

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## church of Christ at Beverly Shores

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship  
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

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that had the children of Bethlehem killed in an effort to kill the Christ. (Read: Mt. 2:1-16.)

**Herod Antipas** (ruled from 3 BC – 39 AD) – was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea, the territories in which both John the Baptist centered their ministries. This is the Herod that killed John the Baptist. (Read: Mt. 13:3-12; Mk. 6:14-29; and Lk. 3:19,20.) Three events describe his relationship with Jesus:

- 1) Antipas fretted that Jesus might be John the Baptist resurrected (Read: Mt. 14:1,2; Mk. 6:14-16; Lk. 9:7-9.);
- 2) He wished to kill Jesus on His final trip to Jerusalem (Read: Lk. 13: 31-33.); and 3) He mocked Christ at His trial. (Read: Lk. 23:7-12.)

**Herod Agrippa I** (related incident occurred about 47 AD) – grandson of Herod the Great is infamous for killing James the Apostle. (Read: Acts 12:1-2).

**Herod Agrippa II** (related incident occurred about 63 AD) – great-grandson of Herod the Great was the king before which Paul stood trial. (Read: Acts 25:13-26:32.)

**Sources:**

Halley's Bible Handbook, p. 420 (24<sup>th</sup> ed., 1965)

Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible, article entitled *The Herod Family* by E.M. Blaiklock. p. 540 (1973)

For a deep discussion of the Herods, see The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (1992) under the article *The Herodian Dynasty* by H.W. Hoehner, pp. 317-26.

## A Sermon for Today

by Jason Moore (Acts 10:1-48)

*(Acts 10:30-33) Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, and he \*said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 'Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.' "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." (NAS95)*

Peter's sermon to Cornelius' house needs an audience today as much as when he first spoke it.

**"God shows no partiality."** Let us not either. Let no prejudice cause you to refrain from doing good to another when it's in your power to do so.

**"Whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."** A healthy dose of fear and a generous portion of righteousness will keep you in God's favor today. The former will keep you out of trouble. The latter will keep you on task.

**"The word which God sent... that word you know."** God has spoken. We don't have to *guess* what He thinks, what He wants. We can *read*. We can *know*. Thank God for such a privilege today.

**"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."** Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Good news can. The good news of God tabernacling among men, suffering between thieves, sleeping beside the dead, bursting from the tomb, reigning above the heavens. That came from Nazareth and equips us for Eternity.

**"He commanded us to preach to the people."** He still does. "And the things you have heard from me... commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). If you want to strengthen your commitment today commit someone else to following the Lord.

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